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SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 20 October 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the position of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on agenda item 112.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 112.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has carefully studied the report of the Committee on Contributions (A/49/11). Yugoslavia believes that the Committee on Contributions, working on the basis of General Assembly resolution 48/223 B of 23 December 1993, produced a proposal for a new machine scale of assessments which represents a marked improvement compared to the previous one and as such is a step in the right direction.

The decision to phase out the scheme of limits by 50 per cent in the period 1995-1997 has, according to the proposal, reduced Yugoslavia's assessment by 0.03 per cent in 1995 and 1996 and 0.04 per cent in 1997. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is of the opinion, however, that instead of opting for a gradual phase-out of the scheme of limits, the Committee should have chosen a single step phase-out, which would have reduced Yugoslavia's assessment for the whole period of 1995-1997 by 0.04 per cent and would reflect the necessity of fair burden-sharing and financial soundness of the United Nations.

Despite the fact that the new scale does not totally reflect the large-scale disruption in the economic, social and humanitarian field as a consequence of the crisis and war in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the devastating effects of the sanctions on the economy and the gross national product (GNP) of Yugoslavia as well as the economic burden of more than 500,000 refugees who have found shelter in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the proposal of the Committee on Contributions is a step in the right direction.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would like to bring to the attention of the Fifth Committee that it has requested the Security Council and its Sanctions Committee to do all they can to enable Yugoslavia to pay its contributions from the Yugoslav assets frozen in United States banks. Yugoslavia is still awaiting a reply from the Council concerning the aforesaid request. Yugoslavia is prepared to pay a substantial part of its dues the moment a positive decision on the partial defreezing of its assets is reached.

Yugoslavia supports the proposal that the problems of refugee host countries should be taken into account in future scale methodologies. In determining the scale, the heavy debt burden of developing countries should be retained as a criterion for determining assessment rates.